Relying on natural resources and low-skilled workers would not bring sustainable economy to the country: Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham delivers an address at first meeting of Human Resources Development Plan Implementation Central Committee.—MNA

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Oct—“Lack of human resources development would make a country lag behind the development,” said Chairman of Human Resources Development Plan Implementation Central Committee Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham at Central Committee’s meeting Union government office here today.

He continued that efforts are to be made for ensuring greater Human Development Index (HDI) and attaining Myanmar’s MDGs (Millennium Development Goals). Myanmar starts implementing a human resources development plan which is a very basic foundation for multi-sector development of the country.

He pointed out that relying on natural resources and low-skilled workers would not bring a sustainable economy to the country. Shift to a knowledge-based industry would bring about immense development and sustainable economy to the country. Human resource development is directly proportionate to country’s development.

Myanmar was ranked 149th on the Human Development Index in 2012. As a short-term drive, human resources development plan can be implemented by means of capacity building of the organizations involved, effective on-job training, foreign training and carrot-and-stick approach.

The long-term measure involves up-to-date theory and practice of lessons in twelve teaching universities including the Ministry of Education and cooperation with private and international organizations, he added.

Later, Vice-Chairmen Union Ministers Dr Pe Thet Khin, Dr Ko Ko Oo and acting Union Minister Dr Myo Myint reported on implementation of human resources development plans and cooperation for multi-sector human resources development.

Central Committee members the Union Ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Chairman of Union Civil Services Board, the deputy ministers, Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Phone Zaw Han, the region/state ministers, National Economic and Social Advisory Council Chairman U Tin Htut Oo and UMFFCCI President U Win Aung also participated in the meeting.

In his concluding speech, the Vice-President said that human resources development contributes to higher productivity, socio-economic development, educational development and higher living standards.

Funding for necessary capitals and technology will be carried out by ways of State’s funding and cooperation with private and international organizations and NGOs. The plan includes workshops, courses and researches. The Ministry of Education will serve as a focal ministry for the plan.

MNA

Nationwide ceasefire a step towards holding political dialogues

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Oct—Union Peace-making Work Committee and Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP) held a Union level peace talks for the third time at the Office of Kayah State Government in Loikaw, Kayah State, this morning.

Union Minister at President Office U Aung Min, Vice-Chairman of Union Peace-making Work Committee, at the meeting said that 14 of 16 ethnic armed groups had reached ceasefire agreements with the government. He added that agreements had been made with KIO which is one of the remaining two groups and plans are underway to sign a nationwide ceasefire agreement and hold political dialogues.

He highlighted the nationwide ceasefire agreement signing ceremony that will be held soon is a step towards holding political dialogues, saying that the government is striving for organizing the political dialogues inspired by all ethnic armed groups without fail.

He also stressed the need for frequent meetings with ethnic armed groups for the success of peace process through negotiations.

Next, Kayah State Chief Minister U Khin Maung Oo said that the Kayah State is lagged behind in development and

Bay Bulletin

Nay Pyi Taw, 22 Oct—According to the observations at 11:30 hrs MST today, the low pressure area over Southwest Bay of Bengal now lies over Southwest Bay and adjoining West Central Bay of Bengal, announced by Meteorology and Hydrology Department. NLM

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

President Office

(Order No. 46/2013)

3rd Waning of Thadingyut, 1375 ME

(22nd October, 2013)

Resignation of Rakhine State high court judge allowed

Under Sub-section (a) of Section 312 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and Sub-section (a) of Section 49 of the Union Judicial Law, Rakhine State high court judge Daw Si Si has been allowed to resign of her own volition.

Sd/ Thein Sein
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Union Government

Notification No. 68/2013

3rd Waning of Thadingyut, 1375 ME

(22nd October, 2013)

The Union Government hereby declared that as 14th Waning of Thadingyut, 1375 ME, Saturday (22nd November 2013) is Deepavali Day, the Government Offices in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar will be closed on that day as public holiday under section 25 of the Nego-tiable Instruments Act.

By order.
Sd/ Zaw Than Thin
Secretary
Union Government

Ministry of Education will serve as a focal ministry for the plan.

MNA

(See page 8)
**Culture**

**Khwado Festival, traditional culture of Chin nationals**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is home to various national races. They celebrate respective traditional festivals. Khwado Festival is the most important of Chin nationals.

*Khwado* means successful harvest of crops. New Year festival and ceremony to ward out the evils.

**Zawgyi River retaining wall collapses in heavy rain in Kyaukse**

*Kyaukse, 22 Oct—* Heavy rains on 19 October caused bank collapse at three places of Zawgyi River in Kyaukse Township.

Three places happened at 100 feet and one furlong distances downstream of the bridge to Basic Education High School No. 1 in Sugon Ward and one furlong distance upstream of the bridge. Deputy Commissioner U Ohn Thar of Kyaukse District and officials of Irrigation Department and Development Affairs Department looked into the collapses.

"Landslide was caused by heavy rains, not bank erosion. There were no casualties. When water subsides, we will maintain the retaining walls," said Head of Township Irrigation Department U Myo Zaw Latt.

"The collapsed area was built at a time when water was supplied to the town. We will reconstruct the landslide area as quickly as possible," said the Deputy Commissioner.

*Kyemon-Tun Tun Naing (Kyaukse)*

**Anti-Narcotic Drives**

**Narcotic drugs worth K 800 m seized**

*NaPyiTaw, 22 Oct—* A combined team comprising members of No 30 Special Anti-Drug Squad of Tachileik searched a Tiger-4WD driven by Li Kwan Yon (a) Aung Win, 33 of No. 5 Ward in Nakaungmu Village-tract of Ponpalkyem Sub-Township at Loiawkhawm Checkpoint in Tachileik Township on 19 October. They seized 40 packets of Ice among the foodstuffs in the rare of car worth K 800 million.

The Ice will be reportedly sent to Monghsat from Tachileik.

*Kyemon-Police Information*

**Barrels of palm oil arrive at Yangon Port**

*Yangon, 22 Oct—* A total of 421 barrels of crude palm oil were unloaded from Yan Myo Aung Vessel that runs the route between Myeik and Yangon, at No. 6 Jetty (Wadan Jetty) of Yangon on 18 October afternoon.

The crude palm oil will be sent to TNA Soap Factory in Mandalay via Yangon. The crude oil can be used in production of various products in addition to soap.

*Kyemon-Kyaw Myint Aye (IPRD)*

**Anti-rabies vaccine given to pet dogs**

*Myawady, 22 Oct—* Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department of Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development and OIE jointly organized vaccination of anti-rabies to pet dogs and held educative talks.

In Myawady, Head of Myawady District LBVD Dr San Myint and Head of Township LBVD Dr Khang Soe Win, Deputy Head of Department Dr Zeyar Toe and party gave anti-rabies vaccines to the pet dogs and cats from wards, religious buildings and schools free of charge.

*Kyemon-District IPRD*
Japan welcomes UN statement on nuclear disarmament

PARIS, Oct — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on Tuesday welcomed a statement issued at a UN committee by 125 countries including Japan and New Zealand drawing attention to the humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons, calling it an expression of “political will.”

“Japan, as the only country that has suffered wartime atomic bombing and that knows best the horror of nuclear weapons, supports the statement’s aim to realize a world free of nuclear weapons,” Kishida told reporters.

He reiterated Tokyo’s determination to lead international efforts to realize a world free of nuclear weapons. Japan endorsed for the first time a statement issued Monday at the UN General Assembly’s First, or Disarmament and International Security, Committee. The text, whose drafting was led by New Zealand, says that “it is in the interest of the very survival of humanity that nuclear weapons are never used again, under any circumstances.”

“Outlining the reason for endorsing the statement, the foreign minister said that “several important modifications” were made to make the statement compatible with Japan’s security policy and approach to nuclear disarmament.

“After examining the entire statement, we determined that it is compatible with our realistic and progressive approach to nuclear disarmament and our security policy, and decided to join it,” he told reporters.

Japan did not endorse a similar joint statement announced at the First Committee last year that called for increased attention to the potential humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons and called on countries to intensify efforts to “ outlaw” nuclear weapons.

Kyodo News

Iran sees nuclear talks with powers finishing within year

DUBAI, 22 Oct — Iran believes it can wrap up negotiations with world powers over its disputed nuclear programme in one year or less, Iranian media quoted its chief nuclear negotiator as saying.

At talks last week, the first since moderate President Hassan Rouhani’s election in June, Tehran offered a three-phase plan it said could yield a breakthrough in the stand-off after years of diplomatic paralysis and increasing confrontation. “If we see the same seriousness in future negotiations which we saw in the (15-16 October) Geneva negotiations, we believe that within six months to one year we can conclude the negotiations,” Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said in an interview with the state-owned, Arabic-language Al Alam television channel.

“Perhaps within three or six months we can reach a conclusion regarding the first step,” he said, in remarks that were published on Monday by ISNA news agency. The United States and its European allies suspect Iran is working towards a nuclear weapons capability, and have levied sanctions on Iran’s energy, banking and shipping sectors that have battered the Iranian economy and caused a currency crisis.

Iran denies it is after nuclear weapons, saying its uranium enrichment programme is purely for peaceful energy purposes. The six world powers dealing with the Iranian nuclear issue are the five permanent UN Security Council members – the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France – plus Germany.

Washington described last week’s negotiations as the most serious and candid to date, and the parties have agreed to meet again in Geneva on 7-8 November.

Iran’s President Hassan Rouhani takes questions from journalists during a news conference in New York on 27 Sept, 2013. —REUTERS

Iranian student shoots teacher dead, wounds two before killing self

SPARKS, Nevada, 22 Oct — A 12-year-old student armed with a semi-automatic handgun shot and killed a math teacher and critically wounded two classmates before killing himself at his Nevada middle school on Monday, law enforcement officials said.

Witnesses described a chaotic scene at the school in the northwestern Nevada town of Sparks, just east of Reno near the California border, after the gunfire erupted outside classrooms as students were arriving for the school day. “A kid started getting mad and he pulled out a gun and shoots my friend, one of my friends at least,” a seventh-grade student identified as Andrew Thompson told local television station KOLO.

“And then he walked up to a teacher and says to back up. The teacher started backing up and he pulled the trigger.” The teacher was just lucky there and he was told KOLO. “And me and five other friends went to him and said come on we’ve got to get him to safety. We picked him up, carried him a little bit far and we left him because our vice principal came along and said go, go, go get to safety, get to safety. So we left the teacher there and we went to safety.”

The incident marked the latest in a string of shooting rampages across the United States in recent years, including a shooting last December at a Connecticut elementary school that killed 20 students and six adults and helped reignite a national debate over gun control.

The slain educator at Sparks Middle School was identified by his family as 45-year-old math teacher Michael Landsberry. Authorities declined to identify the two wounded students, both age 12, who acting Sparks Police Chief Tom Miller said were rushed to a Reno hospital, where one had emergency surgery. One of the boys sustained a gunshot wound to the shoulder and the other was hit in the abdomen, he said, and were listed in stable condition on Monday afternoon.

Family members of Landsberry, a former Marine who was also a member of the Nevada Air National Guard, described him as a hero who tried to persuade the young gunman to drop his weapon. “(He was) probably trying to stop that kid from hurting himself or anyone else,” his sister-in-law Chanda Landsberry told Reuters. —Reuters

Nevada student shoots teacher dead, wounds two before killing self

Pakistani passengers wait at a railway station after the suspension of train services following a bomb explosion hitting a passenger train in southwest Pakistan’s Quetta, on 21 Oct, 2013. At least five people were killed and 15 others injured when a blast hit a passenger train in Pakistan’s southwest province of Balochistan on Monday morning, local media reported. —Xinhua

IAEA calls for more communication on Japan’s decontamination efforts

In a preliminary report released after its weeklong mission in Japan on decontamination efforts, adding that such a strategy would allow resources to be reallocated to the recovery of essential infrastructure to enhance living conditions.

Following the Fukushima nuclear power plant disaster that resulted in the release of massive radioactive substances outside the plant, the Japanese government has decided to scale down areas where over 20 millisieverts of annual exposure dose were measured to help evacuees return to their homes. As for areas with dose of less than 20 millisieverts, the government has also said it will seek to bring down the figure to 1 millisievert or below as a long-term goal.

But according to Environmental Ministry officials, there are people who are concerned about returning to areas that have not achieved the long-term goal. The IAEA mission, led by Juan Carlos Lentijo, director of the IAEA Division of Fuel Cycle and Waste Technology, handed a report to Environment Minister Nobuteru Ishihara in Tokyo on 21 Oct, 2013. The report said the Japanese government should communicate well with the public that reducing annual individual radiation exposure to 1 millisievert in areas contaminated by the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis is a “long-term goal.”

“ … a step-by-step approach should be taken towards achieving this long-term goal,” the team said in its report.

Kyodo News

Police officers are at the shooting scene at the Sparks Middle School in Sparks, Nevada, on 21 Oct, 2013. —REUTERS
German watchdog says Amazon’s third-party deals must change

FRANKFURT, 22 Oct — Germany’s antitrust watchdog accused Amazon of undermining competition when it deals with third-party merchants and said it would impose reform unless the Internet retailer changed its rules, a German newspaper reported.

“Luckily, we have instruments of torture, which we will use if necessary,” Andreas Mundt, the president of the German cartel office, was quoted as telling daily Sueddeutsche Zeitung.

A struggle with competition authorities in its second-largest market after the United States would add to Amazon’s woes.

Its German operations have been rattled by a dispute over employees’ pay and a trade union has warned that staff could strike during the Christmas holiday season. “The terms of Amazon’s Marketplace in effect obstruct competition,” Mundt said, according to a pre-release on Sunday of the newspaper’s Monday edition. “We are in talks with Amazon to eliminate these impediments to competition... If necessary, we will issue a crystal clear decree.”

Separately, Amazon has been criticized over its tax payments and leading policy makers have called for a new German government to crack down on tax avoidance by multinational firms without waiting for its European partners to act.

At the heart of the watchdog’s complaints about Amazon’s Marketplace is a requirement that third-party merchants must offer their cheapest price when selling their products over the platform. Amazon was not immediately available for comment.

US surveillance leaks threaten police use of new technologies

PHILADELPHIA, 22 Oct — Public disclosures about US government surveillance threaten the ability of police to use powerful new technologies such as drones and mobile license plate readers, a top law enforcement official said on Sunday. The leak of highly classified documents by National Security Agency Edward Snowden prompted tighter restrictions on key technology advances, said Georgia Bureau of Investigation Director Vernon Keenan, speaking at the International Association of Chiefs of Police conference.

The disclosures, including about monitoring of US phone records, threaten to erode existing authority to use high-tech equipment, he said. “The scrutiny that the NSA has come under filters down to us,” Keenan said at the annual gathering that draws top law enforcement from the United States and elsewhere with workshops, product exhibits and conference. He said guidelines for collecting data varied widely from state to state. License plate data is retained for 48 hours to five years, for example, depending on local law, he said. For many new technologies, there is no clear legal standard to govern their use, he said.

“If we are not very careful, law enforcement is going to lose the use of technology,” he said. New technologies including advanced facial recognition software, mobile license plate readers and unmanned aircraft are reshaping US law enforcement, officials said. Such advances will be “both the benefactor and the curse of policing” and demand that law enforcement be thoughtful about their deployment, Philadelphia Police Chief Charles Ramsey said on Saturday at the start of the week-long conference.

Imagine instead of driving down the street scanning license tags, driving down the street checking the faces of individuals walking down the street,” Ramsey said.

We have to remind ourselves—just because we can do something doesn’t mean we should do it,” US Attorney General Eric Holder and James Comey, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation are scheduled to address the roughly 13,500 conference attendees on Monday.

Astronomers discover strange planetary system with “tilted” orbits

BEIJING, 22 Oct — Astronomers using data collected by NASA’s Kepler space telescope have discovered some curious planets circling their fiery star in tilted orbits, at about a 45 degree angle from the star’s equator. By comparison, all the planets in our solar system orbit with only a slight, seven-degree angle relative to our sun.

To help figure out why Kepler-56’s planets behaved so strangely, scientists used observations from the 10-meter Keck telescope in Hawaii to discover that what keeps the two planets stabilized in their skewed orbits is a third massive companion planet in a distant orbit.

“This is a new level of detail about the architecture of a planetary system outside our solar system,” co-author and Iowa State University physics and astronomy professor Kawai said. “These studies allow us to draw a detailed picture of a distant system that provides a new and critical test of our understanding of how these very alien solar systems are structured.”

HTC CEO steps back to focus on fixing smartphone slide

TAIPEI, 21 Oct — HTC Corp’s chief executive has handed some duties to the company’s chairwoman as the smartphone maker struggles to claw back market share from Apple Inc and Samsung Electronics Co Ltd, the Financial Times reported.

Chief executive Peter Chou is temporarily focusing on innovation and product development after HTC’s latest One handset failed to arrest a slide in the company’s share of the global smartphone business, the newspaper reported. Cher Wang, chairwoman and company co-founder, is stepping up her duties to include sales, marketing and supplier relationship, it said.

H T Chou, another co-founder, has returned to the company to head certain phone projects, said a source with knowledge of the matter. HTC, which posted its first quarterly loss in years this month, has been hit low by the product and marketing might of Apple and Samsung—woes that have been exacerbated by supply-chain constraints and internal turmoil.

Once ranked among the top five phonemakers by shipments, HTC this year fell out of the top 10, according to Gartner. HTC officials were not immediately available for comment. Shares of HTC fell 1.1 percent minutes after market opened, lagging the main index’s 0.06 percent dip.

Mobile use differs markedly between cities

BEIJING, 22 Oct—The first thing Zhang Ning, an office worker in Shanghai, does each day is check her social networking app WeChat and the weather app on her cellphone. She takes her iPhone everywhere and said she feels uninspired without it. Like most young Chinese, cellphone apps have become an essential part of their lifestyle due to their convenience.

“Whatever you need, you just touch your device, and you get what you want,” said Zhang, 28, sustainability consulting director with Yemmann Architects in Shanghai.

Using different apps, Zhang shops online, keeps her accounts, browses recips and reads tips on how to keep healthy. “I can’t live without my cellphone,” she said jokingly. With smartphones used by most of the country’s young generation, cellphone apps have become part of their lives.

However, the popularity of certain apps differ markedly from one city to another. According to the Horizon Research Consultancy Group of Beijing, one’s habit of using cellphone apps reflects the diversity of Chinese cities.
**BUSINESS & HEALTH**

**Hutchison drops plan to sell supermarkets**

**BEIJING, 22 Oct**— Hutchison Whampoa, controlled by Asia’s rich- est man, Li Ka-shing, has scrapped a plan to sell its Hong Kong supermarkets business, ParknShop and will instead focus on ex- panding in China, it said on Friday.

The sale of ParknShop, which operates 345 stores in Hong Kong, China and Macau, had been expected to fetch between 3 billion US dollars and 4 billion US dollars, with prospective bidders including promi-

**Crown Castle to buy rights to AT&T towers for $4.85 billion**

The logo of Philips is seen at the company’s entrance in Brussels on 11 Sept, 2012.— Reuters

**Hutchison drops plan to sell supermarkets**

The AT&T logo is pictured by its store in Carlsbad, California, on 22 April, 2013.— Reuters

**Philips’ profits improve**

**AMSTERDAM, 22 Oct**— Dutch healthcare, lighting and consumer appliances group Philips (PHG.AS) reported a near tripling in its third-quarter net profit on Monday, thanks to im- provements across the group after two years of rationalisation, its net profit climbed to 281 million eu-

**Office Depot, Office Max on track for FTC approval**

An Office Depot store is pictured in Encinitas, California, on 19 Feb, 2013.— Reuters

**Think twice before buying breast milk online**

**NEW YORK, 22 Oct**— Most of the breast milk sold over the Internet is contami- 
nated with bacteria, a new study suggests. Research- 
ers tested 101 milk samples they bought on milk shar- 
ing websites. They found that almost three quarters prob- ably weren’t safe for babies to drink. Those sites have thousands of ads from people sell- 
ing breast milk, often new mothers who make more than their baby needs. The milk typically sells for $1 
or $2 per ounce. “If you buy milk on the Internet, you have no idea what you’re getting,” said Sarah Keim. She led the study at The Re- 
search Institute at Nation- wide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

“...that almost three quarters probably weren’t safe for babies to drink. Those sites have thousands of ads from people selling breast milk, often new mothers who make more than their baby needs. The milk typically sells for $1 or $2 per ounce. “If you buy milk on the Internet, you have no idea what you’re getting,” said Sarah Keim. She led the study at The Research Institute at Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, Ohio.

“A buyer would just have no way of being able to know with the information they have whether that milk is safe,” Keim said. She and her colleagues had no- 
ticed milk sharing websites popping up over the past few years. For the new study, they responded to 495 ads placed on two of those sites and ended up purchasing and analyzing 101 batches of milk. Seventy-four per-

**Office Depot, Office Max on track for FTC approval**

NEW YORK, 22 Oct — Office Depot (ODP.N) and OfficeMax Inc (OMX.N) are set to receive regulatory approval for their planned merger as the Federal Trade Commission has concluded the deal is not likely to sub- 
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**New Light of Myanmar**

**WORLD**

Narita airport luring LCCs while Haneda boosts int’l flights

**Tokyo, 22 Oct — Narita International Airport is luring low-cost carriers to attract more passengers while Haneda Airport is substantially increasing international flights to take some passengers away from Narita.** Narita has rapidly increased international LCC flights since mid-2012 and plans to open in fiscal 2014 a special LCC terminal that 7.5 million passengers may use annually. Narita International Airport Co officials said. It plans to use boarding ramps instead of official steps to lower fees.

“We would like to simplify the airport system to allow more LCCs to launch services at Narita,” a company official said, adding that the headquarters of many low-cost airlines is Tokyo. “The number of international passengers will continue to increase.”

Haneda’s international flights almost exclusively since Narita opened as Japan’s main international gateway in the late-1970s. But Haneda began to handle 40 daily roundtrip international flights upon the completion of its fourth runway in 2010 and plans to double the number next March. Currently, Haneda’s international flights are limited to shorter routes between Japan and the rest of Asia, but the increase will include routes to Europe and North America.

Haneda is closer to central Tokyo than Narita in Chiba Prefecture and is more convenient for business travelers. The ministry is considering expanding flights to and from both Narita and Haneda.

As air travel through Tokyo is expected to increase toward the 2020 Summer Olympics, the ministry is considering expanding flights to and from both Narita and Haneda. "We would like to do more for Haneda," an airport official said.

A Syrian refugee boy sits on a couch collected from garbage in central Ankara on 5 Oct, 2013. — Reuters

Number of Syrian refugees in Turkey exceeds 600,000

**ANKARA, 22 Oct — The number of Syrian refugees in Turkey has exceeded 600,000 and more than 400,000 of them are living outside refugee camps, the Turkish disaster management agency said on Monday. We conducted a study before the Eid (Al-Adha) holidays and the numbers have increased above 600,000, said Mustafa Aydogdu, spokesperson for the Disaster and Emergency Management Directorate (AFAD).**

Turkey, which shares a 900-km (560-mile) border with Syria, is a strong critic of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and a main supporter of the rebels fighting against him. It has said it will maintain its “open door” policy to those fleeing the Syrian civil war, now in its third year, although it has closed border crossings from time to time following clashes near the frontier.

About 200,000 Syrians were living in 21 refugee camps, mostly near cities near the border, Aydogdu said, while the rest chose to live in rented accommodation outside the camps. Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan said in August Turkey has already spent around $2 billion sheltering the refugees. The United Nations expects another 2 million Syrians to become refugees in 2014 and 2.25 million more to be displaced within the country. — Reuters

Afghan forces kill Taliban commander, detaining four others

**KABUL, 22 Oct — Afghan security forces during operations in parts of Wardak Province killed a Taliban commander and captured four others on Sunday night, a Press release of the provincial government sent to media on Monday said.**

"Security forces backed by aircrafts raided a Taliban hideout in Sayed Ajab district on Monday night killing Taliban commander named Mullah Habibullah on the spot; while four others were captured in Nurkh district on the same night," the Press release added.

**INDONESIA, Japan closer to agreement over aluminum firm’s takeover**

**Jakarta, 22 Oct — The Indonesian government has been closer to an agreement with a Japanese consortium on the planned takeover of an aluminum producer from the Japanese side following months of tough negotiations over the value of the company’s total assets, a Cabinet minister said on Monday. Industry Minister Mohamad Suleman Hidayat told reporters the Indonesian government has made its last offer for the total assets of aluminum producer PT Indonesia Asahan Aluminium (Inalum) based in calculations by the Ministry of Finance and the state auditor.**

"It should be less than $558 million (or) $558 million at maximum," Hidayat said. Earlier, Indonesia insisted that the value of the nation’s only aluminum producer should be $424 million at maximum before asset valuations in 1997 and 1998. Japanese consortium Nippon Aluminium, or NAA, however, claims that the North Sumatra Province-based company is worth $626 million, including the value after asset revaluations. The Japanese shareholders had even threatened to bring the case to the international arbitration court if no consensus was reached over the value. Asked about the consortium’s response to the offer, a minister said: “Principally, they can accept that, because it was an option they had once proposed.”

**Blast on bus in southern Russia kills five, cause unknown**

**Moscow, 22 Oct — An explosion ripped through a bus in the southern Russian city of Volgograd on Monday, killing at least five people and injuring 12 others, an Emergency Situations Ministry official said. There were conflicting reports about the cause of the blast.**

Interfax news agency cited an unnamed source as saying it was a bomb, while RIA cited city police as saying it was an accident caused by a gas explosion. The official said the explosion occurred near the central market, near a military hospital. There were conflicting reports about the cause of the blast.

Berlusconi struggles to keep party united after revolt

**Rome, 22 Oct — When Silvio Berlusconi set out to end Italy’s government last month, he didn’t consult the national secretary of his People of Freedom Party. Nor was the party’s secretary Angelino Alfano asked whether he wanted to resign as deputy prime minister of the coalition government; he was told to.**

This government “is up to no good,” a Berlusconi aide told Alfano by phone on the Saturday afternoon of 28 September, according to a person close to the deputy premier. The aide said Alfano and the four other ministers of Berlusconi’s People of Freedom Party (PDL) had to step down immediately.

Alfano, who declined to comment for this article, did resign, Joining financial markets and reviving memories of the moment in 2011 when Italy almost succumbed to the euro zone debt crisis. But the phone call also triggered a mutiny among Berlusconi’s most senior lieutenants that thwarted his attempt to topple the government. Coupled with a likely ouster from parliament after a criminal conviction, the rebellion has left the 77-year-old Berlusconi facing the most serious challenge to his authority in 20 years and is pushing Italy’s most dominant post-war leader into the sunset of his career, friends and colleagues say.

“I thought his position would be upheld for him. But they didn’t,” Umberto Bossi, leader of the separatist Northern League party said in an interview. Bossi said it’s too early to write Berlusconi off. But he added that his long-time friend and former political ally is “not what he was before.” The revolt — the details of which Reuters has pieced together after interviews with two dozen politicians and aides who were directly involved — is now giving rise to what many say is a long overdue power struggle for the future of Italy’s conservative forces. For Alfano — a 42-year-old Sicilian lawyer who was long been Berlusconi’s most serious challenge, but who few considered strong enough to lead the party — the coup is a chance to set his own stamp on a new conservative political group. — Reuters

**Algerian soldiers secure the airport in In Amenas before the departure of freed hostages, Algeria, on 19 Jan, 2013. Algerian army’s final rescue operation in the gas field of Tiguatourine freed four foreign hostages on Saturday, a security source told Xinhua.**

Xinhua

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**Algiers, 21 Oct — A Syrian refugee boy sits on a couch collected from garbage in central Ankara on 5 Oct, 2013.**

Reuters

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**Afghan forces kill Taliban commander, detaining four others**

**KABUL, 22 Oct — Afghan security forces during operations in parts of Wardak Province killed a Taliban commander and captured four others on Sunday night, a Press release of the provincial government sent to media on Monday said.**

"Security forces backed by aircrafts raided a Taliban hideout in Sayed Ajab district on Monday night killing Taliban commander named Mullah Habibullah on the spot; while four others were captured in Nurkh district on the same night," the Press release added. Xinhua
Bush cleared along Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad

Local News

Ywahtaung, 22 Oct—Myanmar Railways under the Ministry of Rail Transportation is striving for improvement of Mandalay-Myitkyina railroad. In making efforts for convenience of passengers along the route, workers are clearing the bushes along both sides of 221 miles long railroad section from Ywahtaung to Nantseyaung in the open season.

National Sports

Township Administrator’s Cup football tourney wraps up

Mandalay, 22 Oct—The final match of the Chammayathazi Township Administrator’s Cup Soccer Tournament was held at the township ground on 18 October. Kyunlon Ukshaung Ward trounced Aungpinle Ward 6-5 in the final.

Night fire at Theingyi Market D Complex

Yangon, 22 Oct—A fire broke out on the fourth floor of D Complex at Theingyi Market on the middle block of 24th Street in Latha Township at about 8.30 pm on 20 October. The fire started from the store of the market, said those participating in the fire fighting.

A woman from 24th street said, “When smoke was blown off upstairs, I saw the people informed the fire brigade of their findings. Some people said that the fire broke out from the store.”

The head of Sanyoun Zone Fire Station explained to the Myanmar Alinn Daily, “I cannot exactly tell you where outbreak of fire started. The fighting of fire with the use of firetrucks and engines is the second level. Now, the fire has already been put out.”

Thanks to earnest efforts of the fire servicemen, the fire could be totally put out at 9.15 pm.

Fire engines putting out fire at D Complex of Theingyi Market.

Regional development, menace of narcotic drugs disseminated

Reekhorda, 22 Oct—Commander of Chin State Police Force Police Col Myint Lwin held educative talks at the hall of Reekhorda Sub-Township General Administration Department recently. It was attended by departmental personnel, ward administrators and town’s elders.

The police commander gave talks that as the Reekhorda region is an India-Myanmar border area, it is a front line of the nation. He stressed the need to focus on greening of Reek Lake environmental conservation and regional development. As tourists stretch their destinations to the Chin State, the local people may expect to booming of tourism industry. He called for doubling the production in agriculture and livestock breeding sectors. He called on all to join hands among them to eradicate menace of narcotic drugs and serve the interests of the nation and the people.—MMAL-Noy Su (Chin Yoma)

Oil lamps set adrift Royal Lake in Pathein

Pathein, 22 Oct.—A festival of setting adrift oil lamps was held at Royal Lake in Pathein of Ayeyawady Region on October 19.

It was attended by Chief Minister of Ayeyawady Region U Thein Aung, Commander of South-West Command Brig-Gen Lu Aye, region ministers, region, district level departmental officials, town’s elders and guests.

At the entrance to the Royal Lake, the Chief Minister and the commander cut the ribbon to open the ceremony and fed aquafeed to fish.

After that, the Chief Minister, the commander and guests set adrift oil lamps at the lake.

MMAL-District IPRD

Rural people welcome heavy rains in Yamethin Tsp

Yamethin, 22 Oct—Heavy rain poured down in Yamethin Township of Mandalay Region in the whole day of fullmoon day of Thadingyut on 19 October. The torrential creek water flowed down to the township at 9 am on 20 October.

In consequence, the road inundated in Yamethin Township due to heavy rains.

Fire

Neglent fire engulfs staff quarters of SPED

Yangon, 22 Oct—A fire broke out at building No E/306 of Staff Quarters of Sports and Physical Education Department beside Waizayanda Road near Youth Training Centre in Thwunnaa of Thingangyun Township yesterday noon.

With regard to the outbreak of fire at the house of U Saw Win, 50, Head of South Okkalapa Fire Station Zone U Ko Ko Gyi of Myanmar Fire Brigade said, “The fire was triggered from mosquito coin left unattended in the bedroom. After engulfing the materials in the room, the smoke poured out from the door. People from neighbouring apartments informed the fire station about outbreak of fire.”

Members of Fire Services Department and members of Auxiliary Fire Brigade from 10 townships led by Director-General U Tin Mo of Myanmar Fire Brigade in cooperation with local people to put out the fire with the use of 24 fire engines and four management vehicles. The fire could be out out within 40 minutes.

Commander of Thangyangun Township Police Force Police Major Thet Tun said, “Fire Brigade is trying hard to take fire preventive measures through educative talks and fire drills. So, people should take care of preventing the outbreak of fire. Everybody should not be careless over fire.”

The fire destroyed the apartment with personal goods and furniture worth K 500,000.

Thingangyun Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against house owner U Saw Win under the law.

MMAL-Moe Moe Kyi (Yangon)
NATIONAL
Nationwide ceasefire a step towards holding…

(form page 1)

peace is a key to development of a certain region. He called on all stakeholders to work together for holding an inclusive political dialogue and to make all-out efforts for the success of ongoing peace process step by step as ethnic minorities living in the state are longing for peace.

Then, Union Ministers U Khin Maung Soe and U Than Htay, Commander Mag-Gen Soe Htut, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Maung Maung Ohn and Deputy Attorney-General U Tun Oo spoke of the process of trust-building and peace-making, transportation and regional development undertakings.

In his address, U Khun Yar Maung, vice-Chairman of KNPP, voiced that it is hard to end the more than 60-year-old armed conflicts of Myanmar and achieve a lasting peace within a short period of time. It can be witnessed that there have been delays in peace process and political dialogues in other countries due to various reasons, he added.

We were brought to a certain stage in a short time, but it is necessary to try hard for peace with patience and to take time for beginning the political dialogue so that a temporary peace brought about by ceasefire agreements will be translated into a lasting peace, he said.

Next, KNPP Chief of Staff Maj-Gen Bi Htoo acknowledged the trust both sides have established and expressed his belief that today’s meeting will bring better outcomes to be able take a next step towards the political dialogue.

Then, those present held talks on formation of joint-monitoring groups, opening of liaison offices and measures for resettlement of IDPs and resumption of their livelihoods.

In the evening, the vice-chairman and party of the Union Peace-making Work Committee enjoyed a dinner together with the KNPP vice-chairman and delegation members.

MNA

Appointment of ambassador agreed on

NAV PYI TAW, 23 Oct—The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Lee Baek-soon as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in succession to His Excellency Mr. Kim Hae-yeong.

Mr. Lee Baek-soon was born in June 1959 and has Bachelor Degree of Arts in German Language and Literature and Master Degree in International Relations from the Seoul National University in 1982 and 1985. He has also Master Degree in Foreign Affairs from the University of Virginia in the United States of America in 1989.

He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea in 1985. He served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea from 1985 to 2010. He served as Deputy Secretary of the Office of the President (Feb-Sept, 2010), and also served as Director-General of Human Resources in Sept 2010 and Director-General of the North American Affairs Bureau in 2012 at the MOFA. At present he is serving at the MOFA of the Republic of Korea.

Mr. Lee Baek-soon is married with two sons.

MNA

Union Transport Minister meets ICAO Secretary-General

NAV PYI TAW, 22 Oct — Union Minister for Transport U Nyan Tun Aung held talks with Mr. Raymond Benjamin, Secretary-General of International Civil Aviation Organization-ICAO of the UN, at the ministry, here, yesterday morning.

Their discussions were centred on cooperation between Myanmar and ICAO in the matters of upgrading civil aviation safety measures, continuous inspection and training and capacity building programs for staff.

It is learnt that it was the first visit of a secretary-general of ICAO since the organization was set up.

MNA

USDP members visit Hluttaw complex

NAV PYI TAW, 22 Oct — A group comprising 185 members of Magway Township Union Solidarity and Development Party of Magway Region, 60 members of Padaung Township USDP Bago Region (West) and 20 members of Nay Pyi Taw Leew Township USDP this morning observed process of the 12th day eighth regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw and looked round Hluttaw complex.—MNA

Visitors observe 12th day eighth regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA

PERSPECTIVES

Wednesday, 23 October, 2013

Beware of fire

There is a saying “Fire is a good servant but a bad master”. A fire hazard does not loom up automatically. Most of fires are caused by human errors, especially negligence. Negligence, carelessness, ignorance and nonchalance are the main causes of fires. Of the fires broke out, negligent fires are the worst and post a serious threat to the country.

More recently, there were a series of stories on the incidences of fires the length and breadth of the nation. The fires were largely ignited by unattended lit mosquito repellents, overheated dry batteries, lit candles, chemical reaction of materials staffed together in stores, round-the-clock lit fluorescent lamps in sheds and carelessly thrown cigarette loutts. There are also fires usually caused by overheat regulators, wire circuit, electric cookers left unattended, irons and other electronic equipment, and they are all negligent fires.

People have a strong dislike of outbreak of fires. But, negligence often leads to the incident. Failure teaches human beings many things while success is also coveted. Therefore, there should be a sense of urgency in the taking of preventative measures against fires.

The Fire Service Department is still not strong enough to go without help from social organizations such as red crosses and auxiliary fire brigades in case of fire. Preventive measures against fire must be taken in all seriousness. Only then, will it be possible to prevent negligent fires which may occur at any time.

Kachin Nationals Democracy Congress Party gets green light

NAV PYI TAW, 22 Oct—The Union Election Commission scrutinizes and grants applications of political parties for registrations. A 18-member Kachin Nationals Democracy Congress Party led by U Khan Daryaw has applied for setting up of a political party. The UEC has found that the party’s application is in conformity with Laws and Bylaws. It is reported that the UEC gives the go-ahead to the party today.

MNA

Ten-minute interruption mobile communication service in southern Nay Pyi Taw, southern, eastern parts of Shan State

The Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications of the Ministry of Communications, and Information Technology has planned to change the main lines of mobile communication network in southern part of Nay Pyi Taw, southern and eastern parts of Shan State for upgrading the mobile communication system.

Therefore, the mobile communication service of GSM/WCDMA would be cut off 10 minutes around Kenting and its environs in southern Shan State at 2 am on 23, October, 2013; Tachilek and its environs in eastern Shan State at 2 am on 26 October, 2013 and in southern Nay Pyi Taw at 2 am on 28 October and 30 October.

Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications

Courses on hotel security conducted

NAV PYI TAW, 22 Oct — Security courses were opened at Zegyo Hotel in Mandalay yesterday as part of efforts for training staff of the hotels for security measures.

A total of 213 trainees are attending the five-day course. The five-day courses on hotel security were launched simultaneously at hotels, and a total 210 trainees are receiving security training at Zabuthiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw; 219 trainees at Yuzana Garden Hotel in Yangon; 190 trainees at No. 1 Basic Education High School in Taunggyi and 300 trainees at Bagan Hotel in Bagan.

MNA

Union Transport Minister meets ICAO Secretary-General

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Visitors observe 12th day eighth regular session of first Pyithu Hluttaw.—MNA
HRD

Myeik, 21 Oct — A ceremony to open the Capacity Enhancement Short-Term Course for basic education teachers of Myeik District was held at Pyinnya Beikman Hall of Basic Education High School No. 1 in Myeik on 21 October. U Thein Win, Township Administrator, delivered a speech. Myeik District Education Officer U Kyi Than explained matters related to the training course. The trainee teachers sang the song of Noble Teacher. Altogether 428 teachers are attending the training course up to 23 October. — Kyemon-Myeik District IPRD

Fire preventive measures disseminated to people in Pyay

PYAY, 22 Oct — Jointly organized by Pyay District Fire Services Department and Irrigation Department, the talks on fire preventive measures was held in conjunction with the fire drill at the hall of the Construction 2 of Irrigation Department in Pyay on 17 October afternoon.

Head of District Fire Services Department U Win Nyunt shared knowledge about fire prevention to the staff. Next, the head of District FSD and members demonstrated fire preventive measures nd fire fighting to staff and families of the Irrigation Department in Pyay. — Kyemon-Myo Kyaw Gyi (KP)

Exercise books, milk powder donated to schoolchildren

TOUNGOO, 22 Oct — Shwe Lethsaung Snack Shop family, Lucky Bee and Swaw Ah Pyae Co of Toungoo donated exercise books, milk powder bottles and loaf of bread to over 700 schoolchildren from Caritta Dhamma yacuhulture school at Shwesandaw Mayan Monastery in the township of Bago Region on 20 October.

The donor group also presented similar donations to over 2000 students from five Basic Education Primary Schools in Lebu, Yepokkon, Zaungchantaung, Gontan and Taungkwezay villages in Toungoo Township. — Kyemon-U Kyaw Hla (Toungoo)

Donors present exercise books to students of basic education schools in Toungoo Township.

Basic traditional medicine course for housewife opened

MAGWAY, 22 Oct — The opening ceremony of basic traditional medicine course was opened in conjunction with the ceremony to present herbal plants at the office of Magway Region Maternal and Child Welfare Association in Magway on 21 October.

Patron of the Region Maternal and Child Welfare Supervisory Committee Daw San Myint made an opening address. — Head of Region Traditional Medicine Department U Than Tun gave lectures on facts about traditional medicines.

Next, the patron of the Region MCWSC Daw San Myint presented herbal plants to members through Chairperson of MCWSC Daw Thin Than Hwe.

The ceremony was attended by 32 traditional medicine enthusiasts from 15 wards of Magway.

The lectures will be provided to the trainees up to 23 October.

The training course, jointly organized by Magway Region MCWSC and Region Women’s Affairs Organization.

The lectures will include health care services for families with the use of kitchen utensils and herbal plants around the area. — MMAL-Tin Tun Oo

Crime

Thief of five motorcycles arrested in Thakayta Township

YANGON, 22 Oct — Members of Special Crime Combating Squad of Yangon West District Police Force arrested Han Lin Phyo (a) Han Tun, son of U Hla Hsin, who was suspect to be thief for loss of motorcycles, from Himethaya Township on 12 October.

After investigation, Han Lin Phyo (a) Han Tun confessed that he stole a Honda Wave110 motorcycle from a house on 13th street in ward 7 of Thakayta Township.

He also stole one CZI motorcycle from the house near the lake in Ward 7 of the same township in September. He also stole a CZI Kenbo 125 motorcycle from 7th Market 2nd Street.

In addition, he stole one Suzuki Smart motorcycle from Yanpay Ward of Thakayta Township.

The thief also stole a Kenbo R motorcycle from 13th street in Ward 14 of Thakayta Township this month.

So, Thakayta Township Police Station opened a file of lawsuit against him under the law. — Kyemon-Soe Win (MLA)

Yaksawk Tsp WAO provides drugs to TB patients

Yaksawk, 22 Oct — Yaksawk Township Women’s Affairs Federation of Shan State (South) sent two members to attend the course opened by Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation.

The trainees gave lectures to 30 trainees from the organizations.

After that, they checked the suspects of TB disease in eight wards and 32 villages.

They found 11 patients. Of them, four persons have healed from the disease and seven persons are still taking pill, said Township MCWA Chairperson Daw Po Po Nyun.

They gave medicines to the patients in line with the prescriptions.

At present, Yaksawk Township WAO is expanding its works for providing health care and public welfare to the local people. — Kyemon-Pr Tun Zaw (Yesagyo)

Tourists visit Minhla Fort

MINHLA, 22 Oct — Tourists visited Minhla Fort by car in Gwaychaung Village of Myingun Village-tract in Magway Township on 18 October.

On arrival at 8 am, they were welcomed by local people at the entrance of the fort and garlanded.

They were entertained with traditional dances and music. A total of 25 globetrotters were served with dinner by Orcaella tour agency and local people at the fort. — Kyemon-Nian Maung
Europe warns Ukraine time running out for Tymoshenko solution

KIEV, 22 Oct — The party of Ukraine’s jailed opposition leader Yulia Tymoshenko on Monday rejected President Viktor Yanukovich’s terms for her release and European envoys said time was running out to solve a row threatening agreements with the European Union. Tymoshenko, 52, a former prime minister, was jailed for seven years in 2011 for abuse of office after what Western governments say was a political trial.
EU envoys have asked Yanukovich to parlon his arch foe so she can travel as a free person to Germa- ny for treatment for back problems, a compromise seen as guaranteeing signa- ture of landmark deals on association and free trade on 28 November in Vilnius, Lithuania. With pressure mounting on him, Yanuko- vich on 17 October said he was ready to sign a law to allow her to go abroad for treatment, if such a draft was adopted by parliament.
But he did not mention granting her a pardon and floated drafts have indic- ated she would be allowed to go only as a convicted criminal and would be ex- pected to return to Ukraine to complete her sentence after treatment. On Mon- day, Yanukovich confirmed his move, telling visiting Czech President Milos Ze- man that a draft law on the question would go to parlia- ment soon.
Though there was no direct word from Tymo- shenko, her party Bat- kyshevchyna said a solution lay solely in Yanukovich’s hands and did not require any new laws being passed. Nor, it said, did Yanu- kovich’s offer meet the EU’s requirement to end the application of “selective justice” in Ukraine under which politicians could pressure courts to victimize their opponents.
“We again emphasize that ending the problem of politically-motivated jus- tice and solving the problem of Yulia Tymoshenko lies exclusively with President Viktor Yanukovich,” it said in a statement. The agree- ments due to be signed with the EU will mark a big shift in Ukraine’s trade policy westwards away from its old Soviet master Russia, and failure to sign in Vilni- us would be a huge setback for Yanukovich’s policy of Euro-integration. At the same time, he is anxious to keep Tymoshenko out of action as a political force as he prepares for the run- up to a bid for re-election in February 2015. She has made it clear she envisages returning to the political fray if and when the verdict and sentence against her is quashed.

Israel to release second group of Palestinian prisoners

JERUSALEM, 22 Oct — Israel will release the sec- ond group of Palestinian prisoners on 29 October, the Walla! news website reported on Monday, based on accounts of Palestinian officials. In July, the Israeli cabinet voted in favor of releasing 104 Palestinian prisoners in batches, as a gesture to the Palestinian Authority, amid the renew- al of peace talks between two sides later the month.
The Israeli Prison Ser- vice will publish in the up- coming week a list of 30 prisoners set to be released. The first group which in- cluded 26 Palestinian pris- oners was released on 13 August. Earlier this month, Israeli Prime Minister Ben- jamin Netanyahu refused requests by both US and Palestinian officials, to bring forward the release of the second group to 13 Oc- tober, amid the Palestinian Feast of Sacrifice holiday, the Haaretz daily reported.
Last month, right-wing hawkish members of the coalition demanded that Netanyahu halt the upcom- ing release of the prisoners, amid several attacks on Is- raelis in the West Bank in which three Israelis were killed and one girl was injured.
A letter, sent by Econo- my Minister Naftali Ben- net along with members of Netanyahu’s Likud party, asked Netanyahu to “con- vince the cabinet urgently to discuss the continuation of the policy of releasing prisoners in light of recent developments.”—Xinhua

Saudi Arabia under fire at UN over women’s, migrant workers rights

GENEVA, 22 Oct — Saudi Arabia’s rights record came under fire at the United Nations on Monday, crit- ics accusing the kingdom of jailing activists without due process and abusing the basic rights of Saudi women and foreign workers. At the UN Human Rights Council, Britain called for abolition of the Saudi system of male guardianship for women and was joined by the United States in raising cases of forced labor imposed on mi-grant workers.
The US delegation also voiced concern at Saudi re- strictions on freedoms of religion and of association, while Germany called for a moratorium on its use of the death penalty.‘Many countries have problematic records, but Saudi Arabia stands out for its extraordi- narily high levels of repres- sion and its failure to carry out its promises to the Hu- man Rights Council,” Joe Stork, deputy Middle East director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement to the meeting.
Saudi Arabia, which hosts 9 million foreign workers out of a total popula- tion of 28 million, was taking all steps needed to protect their rights and pro- vide appropriate conditions, said Bandar bin Mohammed Al-Aiban, president of the Saudi Human Rights Com- mission. They included a ban on outdoor work in the heat between mid-day and 3 pm from June to August, when temperatures are usu- ally higher than 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit) and can soar to 50 degrees. “With regard to women’s rights, the Islamic Sharia (law) guarantees fair gender equality and the state’s legis- lative enactments do not dif- ferentiate between men and women,” he said.—Reuters

Suspected terrorists arrested in Benghazi

Tripoli, 22 Oct — About 10 members of a suspected terrorist cell linked to former Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi’s regime were arrested in the eastern city of Benghazi on Monday night, a security of- ficial said.
The detainees, includ- ing three Chadian, have confessed their involve- ment in about 15 assassina- tion cases staged in Beng- hazi in recent months, a security officer who spoke on condition of anonymity told Xinhua in a statement.
The assassination cas- es were carried out against army officers and activists by means of setting explo- sive devices in their cars, according to the statement. The officer added that the suspects also admitted that they operated inside a ter- rorist cell that was behind all the recent attacks in Benghazi.
Benghazi, the birth- place of the 2011 revolt which eventually toppled the Gaddafi regime, has witnessed increasing vio- lence in the past months, especially since the Sep- tember 2012 attack on the US diplomatic mission that led to the death of the then US ambassador and three others.—Xinhua

Al-Aiban, president of the state-run Quraa channel said.
Brahimi arrived in Baghdad after wrapping up a two-day visit to Cairo. His visit comes as part of his tour in the Middle East to make preparations for convening an international peace conference on Syria, also known as Geneva II.
The conference had initially been planned for late May, but was re- peatedly postponed over disagreements as to who should have seats at the table.
Iraq’s Shiite-domina- ted government has main- tained close ties with Syr- ia, whose President Bashar al-Assad is a member of Alawite sect, an offshoot of Shiite Islam.
Police looking into airport bomber’s allegations

GUANGZHOU, 22 Oct — Police in south China’s Dongguan City are looking into the case of the Beijing airport bomber, allegedly beaten by security officers.

The public security bureau of Dongguan, in Guangdong Province, confirmed on Monday that it had filed a criminal investigation of the “intentional injury” of Ji Zhongxing.

Ji was sentenced to six years in prison last week for setting off a home-made explosive device at Beijing Capital International Airport in July, severely injuring himself. Ji once worked in Guangdong and claimed that he was beaten in 2005 by local public security officers, resulting in his paralysis. Dongguan police said further investigation into Ji’s alleged beating is under way. — Xinhua

Indonesia offers potential market for PC products

JAKARTA, 22 Oct — Indonesia, the largest economy in Southeast Asia with vibrant economic growth, is a potentially tremendous market for personal computer products due to low ownership ratio. Despite robust economic growth, penetration of personal computer products in Indonesia is very low that gives us great opportunity for business growth here, Dell Indonesia Managing Director Catherine Lian told Xinhua.

“According to the latest data issued by IDC, personal computer ownership ratio in Indonesia was only 10 percent of total population,” she said, citing the recent data issued by the International Data Corporation (IDC), an American-based market research, analysis and advisory firm specializing in information technology, telecommunications, and consumer technology. She added that 85 percent of personal computers sold in Indonesia will be lower end products that provide adequate capability with prices of below 400 US dollars per unit.

The more promising aspect for vendors planning to tap the PC market in Indonesia is the significantly increasing number of people in middle class-plus society, she said. “Generally, the middle class-plus society has high disposable income and the ability to purchase consumer goods. That’s why we are bullish and confident in Indonesia as the key country of growth in this region,” Catherine added.

Analysts estimated that the middle-class society in the country would grow 7 percent per year from currently 80 million people to 132 million people by 2020. Indonesia, the world’s fourth most populous country, posted 6.2 percent economic growth in 2013, the highest among the G20 nations. The government set its target to raise GDP growth to 6.5 percent in 2014.

The more promising market for PC products in Indonesia is the potential 15 million PC users by 2020. IDC, personal computer market research, analysis and advisory firm said that personal computer ownership ratio in Indonesia would reach 7 percent by 2020. The demand for personal computers in Indonesia is expected to exceed 3 million units in 2013.

S Korea, China to launch 2-plus-2 security talks by year-end

SEOUL, 22 Oct — South Korea and China plan to launch a so-called two-plus-two consultative body on security affairs by the end of this year, Yonhap News Agency said on Monday, citing a diplomatic source.

The talks, the first of their kind between the two countries, will bring together senior diplomats and defence officials from the two countries in an effort to step up bilateral cooperation in the face of growing nuclear threats from North Korea, the source said.

“In North Korea’s nuclear issue will top the agenda during the meeting of the security consultative committee, which is based on a two-plus-two format,” Yonhap quoted the source as saying in a dispatch from Beijing. Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi is scheduled to visit South Korea next month to discuss the matter and other pending issues with Kim Jong Sook, the top security adviser to President Park Geun Hye.

Photo taken from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the search for the missing, which resumed on 21 Oct, 2013, on the island of Izu Oshima, south of Tokyo. Typhoon Wipha on 16 October brought torrential rain to the island, causing mudslides that destroyed houses and buried residents alive. According to police and local authorities, 27 people have been confirmed dead.

KYODO NEWS

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Death toll in Oshima reaches 28, 18 still missing

TYO, 22 Oct — The evacuation advisory issued to around 2,300 residents on the typhoon-hit island of Izu Oshima, south of Tokyo, was lifted on Monday, “We will do our utmost to have the missing people returned to their families as soon as possible.”

While some 1,200 personnel from the police and Self-Defense Forces are searching for the missing, the Defence Ministry plans to send 500 additional personnel to the island for the rescue operation. According to the website of the municipal government, the population of the town totaled 8,365 as of the end of September. The municipal government issued the evacuation advisory on Saturday when more heavy rain was expected.

As of Sunday night, some 590 evacuees were in shelters. Typhoon Wipha, the 26th of the year, warned residents to prepare for future evacuations as another powerful typhoon — Francisco, the season’s 27th — approached the Japanese archipelago. — Kyodo News

Singapore to host next TPP ministerial meeting in December

SINGAPORE, 22 Oct — Twelve countries involved in the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade talks will hold a ministerial meeting on 7 to 9 December in Singapore, with an aim to conclude a deal by year-end, official sources said on Monday.

The ministerial sessions will be the stage for the countries to make a thrust toward resolving difficult issues such as tariff eliminations, with Singapore, Australia, New Zealand and Chile aiming to eliminate all tariffs, while countries like Japan seek to keep some to protect sensitive domestic industries. The meeting will be held on the heels of the World Trade Organization’s ninth ministerial conference from 3 to 6 December in Bali, Indonesia.

The United States had sought to hold the TPP ministerial meeting on the same resort island. But with the Doha Round trade liberalization talks under the WTO stalled, the TPP countries have decided to hold it in the nearby country, fearing a successful conclusion of a TPP agreement could subsequently highlight the WTO’s failure, a Japanese government source said.

The 12 countries were arranging the meeting in early December to avoid the Christmas holiday season, while another Japanese government source indicated it would have been difficult for TPP minister Akira Amari to attend if the meeting was set in mid- to late December as he will work on compiling the national budget. The TPP negotiations on market access that involve tariff eliminations as well as intellectual property that deals with the length of protection including patent terms of new drugs have been some of the major sticking points for the member countries.

The negotiators have been continuing to discuss such issues through teleconference and other means to pave the way for the year-end conclusion, while chief negotiators are expected to hold their meeting in November. The TPP countries are Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam. — Kyodo News

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Chinese electronics, semiconductor industry reports double digit decline

MANILA, 22 Oct — The Philippine electronics and semiconductors industry recorded a decline of 10 percent to 10.44 billion US dollars from 11.84 billion dollars in the same period in 2012, he said. Despite the contraction in electronics and semiconductor automotive and consumer electronics posted growth of 324 percent and 19.66 percent, respectively.

Xinhua

China becomes biggest investor in Laos

VIENTiane, 22 Oct — China was Laos’ largest foreign investor in the first 11 months of the 2012-2013 financial year with over 1.33 billion US dollars worth of projects, Lao state-run news agency reported on Monday.

During the period, Thailand was the second biggest foreign investor with 416 million US dollars, according to Lao Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI). The energy sector received most of the investment with 1.56 billion US dollars, followed by mining sector with 1.09 billion US dollars, said the MPI.

The largest energy investment was poured into the construction of the Nam Ngiep 1 hydropower project in Bolikhamsay province with over 868 million US dollars. Building of the dam will start in 2014 with construction expected to be completed by 2019. The dam will have a capacity of 290 megawatts. The Lao government set a target of 15 percent annual GDP growth rate, which requires investment of at least 1.7 billion US dollars.

Xinhua

Philippine electronics, semiconductor industry reports double digit decline

MANILA, 22 Oct — The Philippine electronics and semiconductors industry recorded a decline of 10.62 percent to 10.44 billion US dollars from 11.84 billion dollars in the same period in 2012, he said. Despite the contraction in electronics and semiconductor automotive and consumer electronics posted growth of 324 percent and 19.66 percent, respectively.

Xinhua

Thailand considers charging foreigners entry fee

BANGKOK, 22 Oct — Thai government is considering a plan to charge foreigners a 500-baht (16 US dollars) entry fee from January next year, according to Public Health Minister Pradit Sintavanarong. Pradit said on Sunday that officials from the Ministry of Tourism and Sports, the Ministry of Public Health and the Royal Thai Police had discussed the matter and all agreed with the idea.

They expected the extra charge would lead to an increase in the quality of tourists entering Thailand, he said. The tourism and sports minister (Somchai Phrunrispak) told me that every other country is collecting entry fees from foreigners, ” Pradit said. “The money will be used for many purposes by the tourism, health and foreign affairs ministries, and the Immigration Bureau,” he said.

The health ministry would gather relevant information and help the Ministry of the Interior in legislating the law. The collected fees would go into the national budget coffers before they are transferred to different agencies, he said. He expected the new entry charge would take effect from 1 January, but it could be put off to mid-January because there would be many tourists entering the country at that time and they might get confused, he said.

Foreigners who stay in Thailand no more than three days would be charged 30 baht a day, while those who stay more than three days would have to pay 500 baht, he said. —Xinhua

Record 700 mil yen set for winner of top prizes in year-end lottery

Tokyo, 22 Oct — A record 700 million yen will be paid out in the Year-End Jumbo Lottery to the winner of the first prize if that person properly placed a block of tickets including the numbers just before and after the winning ticket, its organizers said on Monday.

The organizer decided to raise the cash payout for the top prize to 500 million yen from 400 million yen, while keeping the payout for the second adjacent numbers at 100 million yen each. —Kyodo News

China becomes biggest investor in Laos

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Xinhua
Sandra Bullock and son wear skeleton costumes for Halloween

LOS ANGELES, 22 Oct—Gravity star Sandra Bullock and her 3-year-old son were photographed wearing matching skeleton costumes as they headed for a Halloween party in Sherman Oaks, California. Bullock and her son were seen sporting spooky make-up as she holds hands with Louis. She wore a lace dress with a skeleton corset during the outing, reported Aceshowbiz. Louis even had bat wings to complete his look. The 3-year-old boy, however, did not wear the wings.

In a recent interview with Vogue, Bullock said that Louis was her priority. “I think this business can take the child out of kids so quickly. I don’t want him to have pressures brought on by what I do. I will quit. I will leave. If I see whatever I’m doing affecting him negatively, I will pack up and move to Alaska,” she said.

In the magazine interview, Bullock also revealed that she was open to the possibility of having more children. “If all of a sudden someone said, ‘You have five more kids,’ I’d be totally OK with it. I’m having such an amazing time. Whatever comes our way, we handle as a family. It’s not just me anymore,” she added.—PTI

Skyfall actor Ben Whishaw may play Freddie Mercury in biopic

LOS ANGELES, 22 Oct—Actor Ben Whishaw is the front runner to play Queen’s rocker Freddie Mercury in an upcoming biopic.

Lead vocalist of British rock band Queen, Roger Taylor, spilled the beans in a radio interview with Chris Evans and Alex Jones. He initially only gave the initial “BW” when the topic came up. Jones pressed further, asking if it was the Skyfall actor, to which the drummer confirmed, “Well, we hope so.”

The late singer was originally set to be played by Sacha Baron Cohen, but he dropped out of the movie due to creative differences. Harry Potter star Daniel Radcliffe and Captain America: The First Avenger star Dominic Cooper were previously linked to replace the Borat actor, but the Kill Your Darlings star was quick to deny his involvement in the project.

Cohen was said to be planning to offer a gritty R-rated look at the life of the iconic rocker in the upcoming movie, but the band’s remaining members who serve as producers allegedly wanted it to be a PG one.

Taylor later explained their issues with the funnyman. “We felt Sacha probably wasn’t right in the end. We didn’t want it to be a joke. We want people to be moved.” Whishaw, 33, is best known for his role as computer genius Q in the latest James Bond film, Skyfall. He was last seen in Cloud Atlas and will next appear in Lifting, The Zero Theorem and Days and Nights among others.—PTI

Taylor Swift unveils new song

LONDON, 22 Oct—Country star Taylor Swift has premiered her new track online. The 23-year-old singer has recorded Sweeter Than Fiction for the new movie One Chance, which tells the story of Paul Potts before he won Britain’s Got Talent, reported Digital Spy.

The film stars James Corden as Potts, while the support cast includes Mackenzie Crook and Julie Walters. Meanwhile, Swift is currently working on her new album, which will serve as the follow-up to her UK and US number one collection Red.

“I think the goal for the next album is to continue to change, and never change in the same way twice. I ask myself, ‘How do I write these figures diary entries in ways that I’ve never written them before and to a sonic backdrop that I’ve never...

Martin Sheen to receive Lifetime award at Dubai film fest

DUBAI, 22 Oct—Hollywood actor Martin Sheen will receive the Lifetime Achievement Award for his contribution to cinema during the opening ceremony of the 10th edition of the Dubai International Film Festival (DIFF) which runs from 6 to 14 December this year.

The 73-year-old actor is best known for his work in films like Apocalypse Now, Gandhi and The Departed.

“I am truly honoured to accept the Dubai International Film Festival’s Lifetime Achievement Award and looking forward to celebrating the region’s gifted cinematic storytellers,” Sheen said in a statement.

One of the most accomplished actors in Hollywood, Sheen has acted in more than 80 films including his most celebrated movie Apocalypse Now with Francis Ford Coppola. His other movies include Badlands’, Wall Street, Catch Me If You Can, The American President and most recently The Amazing Spider-Man.

The actor had an equally fulfilling career on television with his six time Emmy nominated performance as President Josiah Bartlet in The West Wing. Sheen won six of his eight Golden Globe nominations and two individual SAG awards for the White House series. “Martin Sheen is a cinematic legend whose remarkable career has spanned five decades. In that time he has brought to life a huge variety of compelling, intelligent and wonderfully engaging characters on the big and small screen. We are honoured to present Martin Sheen with a DIFF Lifetime Achievement Award and we look forward to welcoming him to Dubai,” said DIFF Chairman Abdulhamid Juma.—PTI

Olga Kurylenko is Russell Crowe’s new love interest

LOS ANGELES, 22 Oct—Actress Olga Kurylenko will feature opposite actor Russell Crowe in his directing debut The Water Diviner.

The 33-year-old has signed up to play Russell Crowe’s love interest in the film, reports contactmusic.com.

The Water Diviner is about an Australian farmer who travels to Istanbul, Turkey to find out what happened to his sons after they were reported missing in action during the Gallipoli campaign in World War I.

The project will go on floors in Australia in December.

Martin Sheen in a still from Gandhi
Williams warns Istanbul rivals she can still get better

ISTANBUL, 22 Oct — Serena Williams aims to claim her 11th tournament trophy to round off one of the best years of her career, and warned her opponents at this week's WTA season-ending championships that she can still improve.

“It's definitely one of the best years I have had... I'm still looking to improve and... I have a lot of room for improvement,” Williams told reporters on Monday, the day before the eight-woman tournament begins.

The American world number one has won more matches and more titles than in any other year of her career, losing four times in 73 games in 14 events.

“I'm so excited for next year just to take my game to a new level,” added Williams, who won the French and US Opens this year to take her grand-slam total to 17.

“It's just been a great opportunity for me to continue to play, so I never thought I would have one of my best years this year but I always just try to keep doing better.

Defending champion Williams has been drawn with Agnieszka Radwanska, Petra Kvitova and Angelique Kerber in the red group at Istanbul's Sinan Erdem dome while second seed Victoria Azarenka, Li Na, Sara Errani and Jelena Jankovic are in the white group.

World number three Maria Sharapova will miss the championship because of a shoulder injury. Williams said she expected a good match when she plays Kvitova, a dangerous opponent on a fast indoor surface, although the Czech player has never beaten her.

Second seed Azarenka, who has beaten Williams twice in 2013, is her most likely title rival, and the Belarusian said she was looking forward to taking on the American again.

“Sometimes when you feel you don't want to go to the gym or the tennis court and fight, somebody is above you that you want to reach and grab that spot. Definitely that's a big motivation,” Azarenka said.

If Azarenka wins, it would be her first title at the end-of-season event after she lost in the final to Kvitova two years ago in Istanbul which is staging the event for the final time before it moves to Singapore.

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Federer's points search begins with routine win

BASEL, 22 Oct — Roger Federer's late bid to secure his customary place in the season-ending ATP World Tour Finals began with a routine opening round win over Adrian Mannarino in his home town tournament in Basel on Monday.

The 32-year-old Swiss former world number one, in danger of missing out on the eight-man season finale, earned a 6-4, 6-2 victory to the delight of the his home fans.

Federer's lean year has meant he has slipped to eighth in the ATP Race standings, below compatriot Stanislas Wawrinka and with Frenchmen Richard Gasquet and Jo-Wilfried Tsonga both breathing down his neck.

Gasquet, who won the title in Moscow on Sunday is 25 points Federer and Tsonga 90 adrift.

Gasquet is also in action in Basel and, with 500 points on offer for the champion, he will be waiting to pounce should Federer suffer an early exit.

Next week's Paris Masters is the final event of the ATP season in which players can earn points to qualify for London.

The cut-off point for the ATP Tour Finals in London will go down to ninth in the rankings as Wimbledon champion Andy Murray has already withdrawn because of back surgery.

Federer has qualified for the season-end every year since 2002, winning it six times.

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Wie named Youth Games ambassador, eyes Rio

BERLIN, 22 Oct — American golfer Michelle Wie, who helped her sport win a place at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympics, has been appointed Youth Olympics ambassador, the International Olympic Committee said on Monday.

Wie, 24, will advise golfers during the 2014 Nanjing Youth Games next year. Olympic champions Michael Phelps and Yelena Isinbayeva are also Youth Olympics ambassadors.

The American is hoping to compete at the 2016 Olympics when golf returns to the games after more than a century.

“I went to the London Olympic Games last year and that really got me inspired,” said Wie, who was part of golf's Olympics bidding team in 2009.

“Get me motivated and I'm going to do everything I can. It's one of my biggest focuses, making the American team for Rio.”

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Manchester United aim to crank up performance and volume

MANCHESTER, (England), 22 Oct — Manchester United may have to rely on increased noise levels rather than current form to make their home advantage count when they host Real Sociedad in Champions League Group A on Wednesday.

Old Trafford will be trying out a new 'singing section' at the stadium, with up to 1,400 of their loudest fans sitting in an area of the ground normally reserved for away supporters in order to improve the atmosphere because the acoustics are better there.

The move should lift spirits at Old Trafford, where a previous reputation as a rock-solid fortress has been shattered with the English champions managing just one win in the Premier League this season.

Their recent European form is little better with four defeats in their previous seven home games.

United are level on four points with group leaders Shakhtar Donetsk after two games before meeting Sociedad, who have no points and are enduring a start to their league season as shaky as that experienced by David Moyes' men.

"I feel that this is an important one for us," The United manager said on the club website (manutd.com).

"If we could win this one, it would give us a strong position in the group. We have to go out there and take advantage of the home game and try to get a result."

United made a flying start in the Champions League, beating Bayer Leverkusen 4-2 at home in their opener but then drew 1-1 in Donetsk.---Reuters

FA charge Chelsea's Mourinho with improper conduct

LONDON, 22 Oct — Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has been charged with improper conduct for his behaviour during a Premier League game against Cardiff City, the FA said on Monday.

Mourinho was ordered to the stands by referee Anthony Taylor 20 minutes from the end of Saturday's 4-1 win for protesting to the match official after becoming increasingly frustrated at what he perceived to be Cardiff's time-wasting tactics.

Mourinho, who has until 18:00 pm BST on Thursday to respond to the charge, refused to change his stance on Monday when speaking ahead of his side's Champions League match against Schalke.

"If I was at that game and I was paying my ticket, I would be worried with the fact that every time the ball was out or stopped and our opponent had to put the ball back in the game, it took a minimum of 21.5 seconds," Mourinho said.

"That is a waste of money. You pay your ticket and every time the game stops you have to wait about half a minute? When you multiply that by the number of times the game was stopped ... you pay for 90 minutes but you see 55 or 60." Mourinho, who faces a fine, spent the final 20 minutes of Saturday's match sitting with the crowd after losing his patience.

"I don't want to say what did or did not happen. I just want to know the reason why the referee stopped me doing my work. To be with the fans was not funny. It was not funny. It's frustrating."

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Manchester United's manager David Moyes (R) reacts with his coaches on the bench ahead of their English Premier League match against Sunderland at the Stadium of Light in Sunderland, northern England, on 5 Oct, 2013.---Reuters

Switzerland's Roger Federer serves the ball during his match against Adrian Mannarino of France at the Swiss Indoors ATP tennis tournament in Basel on 21 Oct, 2013.---Reuters

Chelsea's manager Jose Mourinho gestures as he speaks to Eden Hazard during their English Premier League soccer match against Cardiff City at Stamford Bridge in London, on 19 Oct, 2013.---Reuters
CONDOLENCES
U Sein Win Aged (92) years
Correspondent and Advisor to Kyodo News

We would like to express our deepest condolences at the loss of U Sein Win who have contributed much to Kyodo News, as a correspondent and special advisor for more than two decades, at 2:12 pm October 17, 2013. Our prayers are with him and his family.

KYODO NEWS (YANGON BUREAU)

4-yr term sought for 2 daughters over 2011 death of Amagasaki woman

KOBE, 22 Oct — Prosecutors on Monday sought four-year prison terms for two women suspected of involvement in the killing of their 66-year-old mother, whose corpse was found in a drum in 2011, in a serial murder case in Amagasaki, Hyogo prefecture.

In the trial at the Kobe District Court, Kazuko Oe’s daughters Kae, 45, and Yumi, 42, are charged with injury resulting in death for repeatedly assaulting their mother after confining her in an apartment between July and September 2011 on the orders of alleged ring leader Miyoko Sumida.

The prosecutors also sought a five-year prison sentence for Yumi’s former husband Hiroyuki Kawamura, 43, who they said developed a close relationship with Sumida before the two sisters were also drawn into her web. Sumida, who committed suicide aged 64 last December in a detention facility after her arrest on suspicion of having masterminded the series of murders, which unraveled after Oe’s corpse was found in November 2011 in a concrete-filled drum at a warehouse in the western Japan city. A ruling in the trial is due on 31 October.

Kyodo News

Buffon questions Real spending before Juventus clash

MADRID, 22 Oct — As European heavyweight Juventus and Real Madrid prepare for Wednesday’s Champions League clash at the Bernabeu, Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon has questioned the Spanish side’s ‘galactico’ transfer policy.

The 35-year-old Italy goalkeeper, who played under Real coach and compatriot Carlo Ancelotti in a Juve team featuring his current assistant Zinedine Zidane, barked Ancelotti to cope with the huge pressure of expectation at the nine-times continental champions.

However, he suggested luring the world’s top players like record signings Gareth Bale and Cristiano Ronaldo, who alone cost almost 200 million euros ($274 million), to the Spanish capital was not enough to guarantee success in the modern game.

“The philosophy of 10 years ago remains the same, buy great champions, entertain the fans and maintain the historic prestige of Real Madrid,” Buffon said in an interview with Spanish sports dailyMarca published on Monday.

“But the reality is that in football, above all now, that’s not enough to win,” he added.

“It’s better to have a project, balance and patience. Money is a good starting point but it’s not enough in itself.”

Real have splashed more than 600 million euros on players over the past five years in a bid to secure the 10th European crown — known as the ‘decima’ in Spain — they have been chasing since they last won the Champions League in 2002. Their outlay is almost three times as much as European and Bundesliga champions Bayern Munich, who have spent 227 million, according to the latest Prime Time Sport Football Transfer Review published last month.

Only English Premier League side Manchester City come close with an outlay of 339 million, while Juve have spent the most of any Serie A club with 274 million.

Real are a work in progress under Ancelotti, who replaced Jose Mourinho at the end of last season, and face a challenging week after losing five to their domestic campaign has begun in stuttering fashion.

They are flying in Europe, however, following thrashings of Group B rivals Galatasaray and FC Copenhagen in their opening two matches, and victory against Juve will put them seven points clear of the Turin-based side with three games remaining.

If Real win and the other match, between Galatasaray and Copenhagen, is a draw, the Madrid club would be virtually guaranteed a place in the last 16.

Buffon said the experience Ancelotti has gained as a twice Champions League winner with AC Milan and from his stints in England and France would help him cope with the Real job, one of the most demanding in football.

“I don’t think anyone knows better how to deal with tense situations and the challenges of winning,” he told Marca.

“Because in the world is obliged to win more than Real Madrid but I think Ancelotti is someone who always finds solutions,” he added.

Real closed to within three points of La Liga leaders Barca thanks to Saturday’s 2-0 win at Malaga, when Bale came off the bench in the second half to win a penalty to mark his return from injury.

Ronaldo converted the spot kick, his eighth goal of the domestic campaign, and the Portuguese forward, Champions League top scorer last season, already found the marker in two appearances in Europe this term.

“If we can play our game, we are a team who plays at high tempo, which pressures high up the pitch, very well organised,” Buffon said.—Reuters
Vice-President U Nyan Tun addresses National Energy Management Committee meeting (3/2013)

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—Patron of National Energy Management Committee Vice-President U Nyan Tun called on experts from development partners organizations and officials of ministries concerned to give comprehensive suggestions on National Energy Policy (Draft) to be able to meet international standards at his address at National Energy Management Committee meeting (3/2013) at the Ministry of Energy, here, yesterday.

He said that socio-economic development of the country cannot achieve success as expected not because of the lack of reliable energy supply triggered by shortage of investment in power sector and inadequate infrastructures and human resources necessary to utilize sustainable energy resources but because of limitations on investment in renewable energy sector.

Development of new technologies for electrical and electronic appliances and power-generating facilities requires sustainable investments.

Seized cars and motor cycles to be put up for competitive bidding system: Dy NPED Minister

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—“Seized cars and motorcycles in good shape across the country will be sold through competitive bidding system,” Deputy Minister for National Planning and Economic Development Dr Daw Khin San Yi replied at today’s Pyithu Hluttaw session.

She continued that the seized vehicles, motorcycles and spare parts management committee was set up by the Union Supreme Court on 23 September this year. Respective courts will sell these vehicles and motorcycles after asking for a floor price from Central Equipment Statistics and Inspection Department under the Ministry through the Union Supreme Court.

The badly-damaged vehicles and motor cycles will be handed over to the Ministry of Defence for destroying them after the President Office gives the go-ahead, she added.

With regard to the question on action taken against those who illegally use Chain Saw, Union Minister for Environmental Conservation and Forestry U Win Tun said that notification No.29/2013 of rules and regulations for chain saw users has been issued in the newspapers. In addition, it has been announced on the notice boards at the offices of Forestry Department, General Administration Department and Rural Development Departments nationwide.

Licences were issued for 52 chain saws in Gwa Township from 6 June to 3 October this year. Action will be taken against those who fail to get chain saw licences. A total of 219 chain saws used in illegal logging have been seized since 2011 to September this year.

He said, the Ministry will supervise the use of chain saws and take stern action against illegal users in cooperation with related ministries and regional administrative bodies.

Myawady welcomes Thai tourists at border gate

MYAWADDY 22 Oct—A total of 23 Thai tourists riding 16 motorcycles and on board a pickup truck entered the border gate in Myawady today.

Under the arrangement of Wide View Travels and Tours Company, and accompanied by an official of Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Services and a guide named Sai Lon, they will tour Myawady, Hpa-an, Kyauktawgyi, Thanlyin, Yangon, Bago and Mawlamyine. They will leave for Maesot through Myawady border gate on 27 October.

Vice-President U Nyan Tun addresses National Energy Management Committee meeting at Ministry of Energy

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He stressed the need to take effective measures based on technology inspection reports while ensuring energy sufficiency for a short period of time and electrification processes.

In the private sector of electricity-generating, it is required to use effective laws and electricity purchase agreements meeting international norms. He highlighted coordination and cooperation to be taken into account by departments concerned for capacity building and organization structure development of the committee.

Next, Union Minister U Zeya Aung explained matters related to policies laid down at the 31st ASEAN Energy Ministerial Meeting and related sessions, Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe, ongoings tasks of generating and distributing electricity and laws, rules and regulations.

Then, Mr. Sadiq H. Zaidi, International Energy Sector Advisor, reported on Draft Working Paper for Myanmar’s energy sector, U Soe Myint, National Energy Sector Advisor, ongoing works and the secretary of the committee, decisions, implementations and draft National Energy Policy.

Aftwards, Union Ministers U Myint Hlaing, U Win Tun, Dr Myint Aung and U Maung Myint elaborated on respective matters related to the energy sector.

Next, those present took part in discussions on national energy policies and gave suggestions on the points to be included in the National Energy Policy (Draft). The meeting came to an end with concluding remarks by the Vice-President.

Myawady welcomes Thai tourists at border gate

Tun Tun OO (Myawady Border Town)

Japan’s assistance for construction of schools

NAY PYI TAW, 22 Oct—The government of Japan will provide assistance for construction of schools in Chin State, Ayeyawady Region and Kayah State.

The assistance amounts to US$ 461,105 for three projects: construction of No. 1 BEHS in Matupi Township, Thingangon Village BEHS in Ngaputaw Township and Thay Su Le Village BEHS Branch in Dimwalko Township. The grant contracts for Dimwalko Township projects will benefit about 3,577 students at three needy schools with better learning and sanitation environment.

The government of Japan has also supported various grass-roots projects in Myanmar and 271 schools have been improved under GGP scheme counting from 1998. It is further expected that existing friendly relation between Japan and Myanmar through implementation of those projects.